

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-7 are rejected.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ferrari et al.** (U.S. Patent No. 6,184,348) in view of **Hähnle** (U.S. Patent No. 6,828,354 corresponding to WO 02/26872 cited as the English equivalent).

It is the position of the Office Action that **Ferrari** discloses the invention as claimed, with the exception of the use of polyalkylenepolyamine or polyarylenepolyamine matrices. The Examiner relies on **Hähnle** to provide this teaching.

Ferrari relates to a recombinantly produced proteinaceous polymer composition. As the Office Action recognizes, **Ferrari** does not teach the use of a polyalkylenepolyamine or polyarylenepolyamine. **Ferrari** discloses a synthetic protein polymer containing a repeating polymer linked by an intervening sequence. The aforementioned copolymers can be deposited onto other substrates and materials for a cell-binding surface. Specifically, **Ferrari** discloses applying the copolymers onto fibers, membranes, films etc. Please see column 28, lines 35-52. However, **Ferrari** contains no suggestion or motivation to use polyalkylenepolyamine or polyarylenepolyamine.

Hähnle discloses the use of polyalkylenepolyamines in the preparation of hydrophilic open-celled resilient foam used in wound dressings. **Hähnle** does not disclose the use of a polyarylenepolyamine. It is noted that **Hähnle** discloses the use of polyalkylenepolyamines in a

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polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino and/or ammonium groups. Please see column 8, lines 17-42. However, **Hähnle** does not disclose that the polyalkylenepolyamines are used in conjunction with a polypeptide. **Hähnle** only describes treating the melamine-formaldehyde resin with vinylamine polymers or polyethyleneimines in order to reduce formaldehyde emissions. See column 2, lines 52-55 and column 4, lines 25-30. While the polymer of **Hähnle** includes polymers having amino groups, it does not include an amino acid sequence.

In response, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion or motivation in the art to combine the two references. **Ferrari** states that “[t]he subject protein polymers may be formulated, either singly or in combination, with other compounds or protein polymers, synthetic or natural polymers, into fibers and films that promote cell attachment.” Column 28, lines 24-27. However, **Ferrari** contains no suggestion of the use of polyalkylenepolyamine or polyarylenepolyamine. Although **Hähnle** discloses the use of a polyalkylenepolyamine, **Hähnle** contains no mention of the use of a protein polymer of any kind.

Ferrari and **Hähnle** have no common ingredients. One having ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of **Ferrari** and **Hähnle**. Specifically, since **Hähnle** uses the melamine-formaldehyde resin, the treatment of the resin with vinylamine polymers or polyethyleneimines is needed to reduce the formaldehyde emissions. Accordingly, the references, either singly or in combination, do not disclose or suggest the wound dressing of the present invention comprising the polypeptide (P), the polyalkylenepolyamine and/or polyarylenepolyamine (A) and the sheet (S).

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The wound dressing of the present invention has an extremely high epidermal regeneration accelerating effect by the above constitution, especially by using the specific polypeptide (P) and the specific polyalkylenepolyamine and/or polyarylenepolyamine (A). Therefore, the wound dressing of the present invention is suited for the therapy of defected skin wounds and can treat wounds without burdens on patients. Applicants respectfully submit that the references, either singly or in combination, do not disclose or suggest that the above excellent acceleration of epidermal regeneration and rapid cure of wounds can be obtained by using the wound dressing of the present invention. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that one having ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of **Ferrari and Hähnle**. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

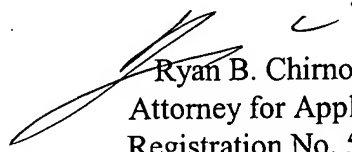
For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned agent.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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